

Regatta Review

Issue #79 - August 8, 2008

THE CHRYSLER JEEP SUPERSTORES APBA GOLD CUP - JULY 11-13, 2008

*** THE 2009 APBA GOLD CUP

The date has been set for the 2009 APBA Gold Cup event - July 10th through July 12th. Mark your calendar!

*** VIDEO FROM THE LAMB WESTON COLUMBIA CUP FINAL HEAT

For the TV coverage video see <http://www.HydroInsider.com> and look for the "Top Video" section.

For cockpit video from the U-5 Formulaboats.com with driver Jeff Bernard visit:
http://www.abrahydroplanes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=403&Itemid=105

*** OH BOY! IT'S OBERTO AT LAMB WESTON COLUMBIA CUP

*** Oberto, David earn first ever Tri-Cities victories

KENNEWICK, Wash -- At the previous three races, the U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto/Miss Madison was the top qualifier. Unfortunately for the team and driver Steve David (Lighthouse Point, Fla.), they couldn't convert the fastest speeds on Friday and Saturday to podium victories.

Solution? Don't be the fastest qualifier in Tri-Cities and in turn win the 2008 Lamb Weston Columbia Cup.

"I've raced on this course for 19 years and this is my first win," said David. "This year is the Oberto company's 90th anniversary, so this is a nice present." The Oberto company's initial sponsorship of a hydroplane happened in the Tri-Cities in 1975.

The most disappointed driver in the field, however has to be Jean Theoret (Montreal, Quebec), driver of the U-37 Miss Beacon Plumbing.

Theoret claimed lane one in the milling period and was in the lead after the first lap. He opened up a sizeable lead over the field and in turn two of lap four, a broken propeller put a hole in the boat and forced the yellow and black checkered boat to a stop. The boat has significant damage to the right rear, but the team expects to be ready for their hometown race next weekend at the Chevrolet Cup at Seafair.

"This race was ours," said Theoret. "And lane one proved itself again. It surprised us because it was a brand new prop. But otherwise our performance this weekend is encouraging for the rest of the season."

David took advantage of Theoret's misfortune and one-lap penalties on the U-1 Ellstrom Elam Plus driven by Dave Villwock (Auburn, Wash.) and David Bryant (Mesa, Ariz.) in the U-10 Hoss Mortgage Investors to take the lead at the end of lap four and finished almost a lap ahead of second place finisher Brian Perkins (Kent, Wash.) in the U-50 Miss Albert Lee. The U-5 Formulaboats.com driven by Jeff Bernard (Kent, Wash.) and the U-7 Formulaboats driven by Jimmy Shane (Havre de Grace, Md.) finished third and fourth respectively.

Villwock passed Bryant during their extra laps to claim fifth place. The Ellstrom Elam Plus was penalized for encroaching on the U-5 Formulaboats.com while the boats came around turn two as they headed for the start of the race. The U-10 had to go once more around the Columbia River course for jumping the gun.

With the victory, the U-6 increased its lead in the 2008 ABRA National High Points Championship race to 618 points over the U-5 Formulaboats.com.

2008 LAMB WESTON COLUMBIA CUP FINAL

Finish - Boat - Driver - Avg. Speed - Points

- 1 U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto Steve David 142.362 400
- 2 U-50 Miss Albert Lee Brian Perkins 128.928 300
- 3 U-5 FormulaBoats.com Jeff Bernard 126.653 225
- 4 U-7 Formulaboats.com Jimmy Shane 118.735 169
- 5 U-1 Ellstrom Elam Plus Dave Villwock 129.238 127
- 6 U-10 Hoss Mortgage Investors David Bryant 129.109 95 DNF U-37 Beacon Plumbing Jean Theoret 0 0

2008 NATIONAL HIGH POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP (TEAM) Number - Boat - Driver - Points

- U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto Steve David 4764
- U-5 FormulaBoats.com Jeff Bernard 4146
- U-37 Beacon Plumbing Jean Theoret 3934
- U-10 Ahern Rentals David Bryant 3090
- U-50 Spirit of the Navy Brian Perkins 2951
- U-7 Formulaboats.com Mike Allen 2590
- U-3 Master Tire Jimmy King 1829
- U-13 Graham Trucking J. Michael Kelly 1375
- U-1 Ellstrom Elam Plus Dave Villwock 1327 U-100 Mirageboats.com Greg Hopp 1314
- U-25 Jarvis Fire and Water Repair Ken Muscatel 567
- U-17 Our Gang Racing Kip Brown 424
- U-48 Miss Lakeridge Paving David Williams 199

2008 NATIONAL HIGH POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP (DRIVER) Driver - Number - Boat - Points Steve David U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto 4764 Jeff Bernard U-5 FormulaBoats.com 4146 Jean Theoret U-37 Beacon Plumbing 3934 David Bryant U-10 Ahern Rentals 3090 Brian Perkins U-

50 Spirit of the Navy 2951 Mike Allen U-7 Formulaboats.com 2326 Jimmy King U-3 Master Tire 1829 J. Michael Kelly U-13 Graham Trucking 1375 Dave Villwock U-1 Ellstrom Elam Plus 1327 Greg Hopp U-100 Mirageboats.com 1314 Ken Muscatel U-25 Jarvis Fire and Water Repair 567 Jimmy Shane U-7 Formulaboats.com 264 Kip Brown U-17 Our Gang Racing 199 David Williams U-48 Miss Lakeridge Paving 199

*** THIS WEEKEND - THE SEATTLE RACE !

Look to <http://www.HydroInsider.com> and <http://www.abrahydroplanes.com> for links to all the coverage and official news!

See especially:

KIRO TV - <http://www.kirotv.com>

KPTK AM - <http://www.am1090seattle.com>

*** NO REPEAT WINNERS MAKE SEAFAIR'S CHEVROLET CUP INTERESTING

SEATTLE--Going into Chevrolet Cup at Seafair one year ago, Dave Villwock (Auburn, Wash.) had run the table on the ABRA Unlimited Hydroplane Circuit--four races and four consecutive wins for the Miss Ellstrom Elam Plus team.

This season, it is just the opposite--four races and four different outcomes.

Grant it, Villwock and his team did not make the Eastern Swing and the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Detroit APBA Gold Cup was ruled a 'no contest' but the level of competition has been the best in the sport's long history.

This past Sunday, Steve David (Lighthouse Pt., Fla.) in the U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto captured the Lamb Weston Columbia Cup, making him the third different driver to win a race this season. It was also the first time David had won an unlimited hydroplane race on the Columbia River and the first time Villwock since 2003 did not come away with the title on the Columbia River.

Of course, it was David who last year broke Villwock's 2007 ABRA streak here in Seattle, capturing the Chevrolet Cup at Seafair in the Oh Boy! Oberto.

"The competition this year is as good as I have ever seen it," said David, who won his eighth career unlimited hydroplane race. "There are six to seven boats who can win a race on any given day."

David has been the fastest qualifier for each race this season but Jean Theoret (Montreal, Que.) and Jeff Bernard (Kent, Wash.) won the first two races of 2008.

In Sunday's Lamb Weston Columbia Cup, it again looked like David was going to be the bridesmaid. Theoret took the U-37 Miss Beacon Plumbing to the lead after a one lap deck-to-

deck battle with David Bryant (Mesa, Ariz.) in the U-10 Hoss Mortgage Investors and the Oh Boy! Oberto.

But midway through the final heat, Theoret broke a propeller, damaging the boat and placing David in control.

"He definitely had me but he lost something (the prop)," said David.
"That's why you keep driving."

A fleet of at least 13 boats are expected to be in the Stanley Sayre Pits on the banks of Lake Washington when qualifying begins Friday morning.

***RONALD McDONALD HOUSE HELP*:**

The Miss Ellstrom Elam Plus presents Amos Hoss hydroplane will be adorned with a large Ronald McDonald House logo-decal in honor of all the courageous children and their families residing at Ronald McDonald House in Seattle. On behalf of the Ellstrom family, the Hoss family will be donating \$20,000 to Ronald McDonald House in Seattle if the hull wins the Seattle Seafair Chevrolet Cup.

***LONG WEEK FOR 13, 37*:**

Not only did Theoret break a prop and suffer hull damage to the Miss Beacon Plumbing in the Lamb Weston Columbia Cup, so did the U-13 Graham Trucking with J Michael Kelly. A broken propeller put a hole in the bottom of the boat. Both teams will be working overtime this week to repair the damage and be ready for the Chevrolet Cup at Seafair.

***NO LUCK FOR THE '3*:**

The U-3 Hoss Mortgage Investors Too had to withdraw from the 2008 Lamb Weston Columbia Cup final heat. In Heat 3B, the U-3 burned a piston which pushed all the trash from the burnt piston into the oil tank. The team determined there just wasn't enough time to complete the task and make the final. The team also blew engines in Evansville and then had problems with oil pressure in Madison.

***KEN MUSCATEL SITUATION*:**

The U-25 Miss Procraft Windows withdrew from racing on Saturday at the 2008 Lamb Weston Columbia Cup as a result of a steering issue suffered in Heat 1C. The team expects the repairs to be completed this week in Seattle and will be ready for the Chevrolet Cup at Seafair.

***SALVAGE IS BIG ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER*:**

Divers and salvage team are working overtime this week on the Columbia River. Three props and one rudder are lying at the bottom of the river. The U-5 Formulaboats.com, the U-13 Graham Trucking and the U-37 Miss Beacon Plumbing all lost props while the U-48 Albert Lee presents Lakeridge Paving lost a rudder, pushing David Williams into a dangerous hook while he was in second place during his heat.

***MARINES JOINING THE NAVY*:**

The U-50 will run this week as the Miss Albert Lee/Spirit of the Navy and it has Navy as the sponsor all year long. This week the U-37 Miss Beacon Plumbing team is also adding an associate sponsor-the United States Marine Corp!

***BRIEF SEAFAIR HYDRO HISTORY*:**

Most of the ABRA Unlimited hydroplane fleet calls Seattle home. The Emerald City has hosted the Unlimiteds every year since 1951. Lou Fageol won the very first Seattle race driving Stan Sayres'

SLO-MO-SHUN V. Seattle is the third oldest Unlimited race site. In terms of consecutive years of participation, only Detroit and Madison have seniority over Seattle. Jean Theoret won the 2006 Chevrolet Cup at Seafair with Billy Schumacher's MISS BEACON PLUMBING. Theoret also won the 2005 Chevrolet Cup with the same boat when it raced as Bill Wurster's LLUMAR WINDOW FILM. Steve David won the 2007 Chevrolet Cup at Seafair with the City of Madison (Ind.) owned hydroplane the OH BOY! OBERTO.

***** CHIP HANAUER WILL TRY TO QUALIFY HYDROPLANE USING BIO-FUEL**

SEATTLE, Wash. - It runs on 80% coconut oil. Really. This weekend, we'll get to see Erick Ellstrom's backup boat, the U-787, run on bio-fuels.

It's a joint project between Ellstrom, the folks at Boeing and Tracy Bratvold of Whispering Turbines. The idea was to build a turbine engine that runs on renewable energy resources.

In mid-July, hydroplane racing legend Chip Hanauer joined the effort, taking the U-787 out for a test drive. Things went well enough that Hanauer will be at Seafair, in the cockpit of the U-787 to take it out for qualifying.

It's been ten years since Hanauer has raced an Unlimited Hydroplane in competition. And while he'll take the boat out to run some qualifying laps, don't look for him to race again. "I don't want to race," said Hanauer during a news conference in Seattle. "If I can qualify in the middle of the pack - and not hit the I-90 bridge - I'll be happy."

Hanauer said he's happy to help make the statement that renewables work, and can work in racing as well. A successful test could be the catalyst to a revolution in motor sports - a move to bio-fuels.

How well does the engine run on bio-fuel?

Hanauer said the boat runs better than any boat he drove during his days racing Unlimited Hydroplanes. "If I didn't know (it was running on bio-fuels), I wouldn't have known the difference," he said.

It's every bit as powerful as anything we have currently, said Ellstrom.

*** GET WELL SOON

The DRRA and all of our volunteers would like to extend our very best wishes to Steve Linn, local driver of the A-63 who was injured in Waterford at the Quake On The Lake race.

Steve suffered broken bones and is in a lot of pain, but he is already back on his feet, will be OK, and is in good spirits.

Get Well Soon Steve!

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer

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